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PU040069

Remarks

In view of the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 103

1. Claims 1-4 are not unpatentable over de Clereq et al.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Clereq et al. (U. S. Patent 7,154,428 issued December 26, 2006). The applicants submit that these claims are not rendered obvious by this reference.

Claims 1-4 are directed to a universal remote control system including at least one remotely controllable appliance and a universal remote control (see, specification at page 2, lines 11-12. The universal remote control 12 has one or more selection keys 13, 14 for selecting for control the at least one remotely controllable appliance and having a plurality of function keys 11, 10 for causing a control signal to be transmitted for controlling the function of the at least one remotely controllable appliance (see, specification at FIGS. 3A-3B and page 2, lines 31-33). The remote control 12 also includes an indicator light 20 positioned for illuminating a power key 25 on the universal remote control, wherein the indicator light functions to indicate that the control signal has been transmitted to the at least one remotely controllable appliance for controlling the function thereof (see, specification at FIG. 3C page 3, lines 4-12). The advantages of such an arrangement are that having only one surface mounted LED can free up

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space on the circuit board as well as reduce power consumption along with simplified manufacturing and assembly of the remote control (see, specification at page 3, lines 8-12).

Le Clereq describes a remote control system (see, le Clereq et al. at column 1, lines 7-13). The system includes a remote control 100, a STB 104 and a television 102 (see, le Clereq et al. at FIG. 1 and column 3, lines 37-39). Remote control 100 includes buttons 220, 222, 224 which each are illuminated under the control of the STB 104 for bi-directional communication therewith (see, le Clereq et al. at FIG. 2 and column 3, lines 58-61).

Le Clereq et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control system including at least one remotely controllable appliance and a universal remote control having one or more selection keys for selecting for control the at least one remotely controllable appliance and having a plurality of function keys for causing a control signal to be transmitted for controlling the function of the at least one remotely controllable appliance, and an indicator light positioned for illuminating a power key on the universal remote control, wherein the indicator light functions to indicate that the control signal has been transmitted to the at least one remotely controllable appliance for controlling the function thereof. The advantages of such an arrangement are that having only one surface mounted LED can free up space on the circuit board as well as reduce power consumption along with simplified manufacturing and assembly of the remote control. Rather, le Clereq et al. only describes a remote control system including a remote control, a STB and a television wherein the remote control includes buttons which each are illuminated under the control of the STB for bi-directional communication therewith. Since, le Clereq et al. does not describe or suggest a universal remote control system including at least one remotely controllable appliance and a universal remote control having one or more selection keys for selecting for control the at least one remotely controllable appliance and having

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a plurality of function keys for causing a control signal to be transmitted for controlling the function of the at least one remotely controllable appliance, and an indicator light positioned for illuminating a power key on the universal remote control, wherein the indicator light functions to indicate that the control signal has been transmitted to the at least one remotely controllable appliance for controlling the function thereof. The advantages of such an arrangement are that having only one surface mounted LED can free up space on the circuit board as well as reduce power consumption along with simplified manufacturing and assembly of the remote control, claims 1-4 are patentable over le Clereq et al.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

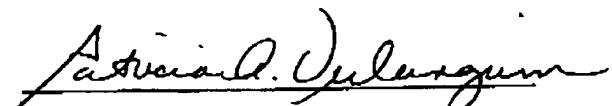
If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring an adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the

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application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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